

**Bill # 666**

Good Afternoon Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Elijah Richardson been in recovery for the past two months. I reside at Evergreen Sober Home. Before coming to Evergreen I was in-patient at Grant Street program.

I am here to express my concern about Bill 666.

If it had not been for Evergreen Sober Home and DMHAS, I would not know where I would be in my life today. I have been running all my life doing drugs.

Now that I am in Recovery at Evergreen Sober Home for the past three months with Ms. Pamela Allen, I have been employed less than two weeks. I go to meetings on a regular basis out-patient as well as Step meetings and attend Church every Sunday.

I also participate in Easter Seal. DMHAS, has helped me with clothing, hygiene vouchers, and also by networking with Grant St. out-patient, it gave me a second chance to get my life back on track by living in a safe, clean and sober environment at Evergreen Sober Home.

Recovery exist and it could be sustained by every individual who is seeking and in recovery by living in a structure clean and safe environment recovery House like Evergreen Sober Home and with the help of DMHAS.

Please do not put in place a statue that may well jeopardize access to housing for persons who are striving to recover their lives and become productive in themselves as well society. Please consider working with DMHAS and the recovery community to accommodate community needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this extremely important issue.

Elijah Richardson